AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph 4 on page 16 of the specification with the following amended version:

The invention is related to the use of a computer system 500, such as the illustrated system, to ~~provide an expression-based mechanism for triggering and testing corner-case exceptional conditions in software~~ load balance threads to avoid starvation and use thereof. According to one embodiment of the invention, a ~~software trigger facility for testing software exceptional conditions~~ load balancing mechanism is provided by computer system 500 in response to processor 504 executing sequences of instructions contained in main memory 506. Such instructions may be read into main memory 506 from another computer-readable medium, such as storage device 510. However, the computer-readable medium is not limited to devices such as storage device 510.